

INFORMANT: LMP-S1
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INTERVIEWER/FILMMAKER: Jules Hart, Wes
TRANSCRIBER: ?

VHS/Mini DV
Spanish

Note 1: three people were briefly interviewed at LMP-S1's temple during the festival of San Simon regarding what San Simon has done for them and why they honor him

Note 2: the real names of the three people are given below; do not use in talks, papers, or publications

A: My n and he has given me all I've asked him for. He is lovely, he is powerful, and that's why *I love San Simon*. Que viva San Simon!

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time you heard about San Simon?

A: Four years ago I started believing in San Simon. I didn't believe in him before, but now I love him, and que Viva San Simon!

INTERVIEWER: What miracles has San Simon performed for you?

A: I'm not living with my husband now. He took my two girls with him to Mexico and I asked San Simon to bring them back to me, and he did. That's why I love San Simon.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have a ritual for San Simon? What do you do? Do you visit him every day, do you pray for him every day, or how do you communicate with him on a daily basis?

A: I don't come see him every day but every day I have faith in him and I believe in him. I only come see him when I need him to help me with something, and I bring him some flowers. That's why I love San Simon.

INTERVIEWER: Is he very popular here in Los Angeles?

A: Yes, he's very popular here in Los Angeles. There's a lot of people that are devoted to him here.

INTERVIEWER: Why are you dressing him up?

A: I am dressing him up because I want him to look pretty today. I was fixing his boots because I brought them for him as a gift and I want them to be seen.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you chose those specific boots?

A: Because they wanted to dress him up as a cowboy, so I brought him ostrich boots. So that's why I dressed him up so that he will look good and everyone will come see him.

INTERVIEWER: Are the boots very expensive?

A: They're not very expensive but for me they don't cost anything if they are for someone as wonderful as he is and he's worth of something even more expensive.

INTERVIEWER: Why is it a special day today for San Simon?

A: Today is a very special day for him because we're celebrating his birthday and that's why we all come and we all come dressed up in traditional dresses.

INTERVIEWER: Is it marked in the calendar?

A: Not really, his birthday is actually on October 28, we're just celebrating it today because it's the only day we all have time to come.ame is Francisca Chacon, and I come from Guatemala. For me San Simon is the best, he is great

INTERVIEWER: The first thing you're gonna do is you're gonna say your name and where you come from.

B: My name is [Name redacted] and I come from Guatemala.

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time you heard about San Simon?

B: The first time I heard about him was when a friend of mine that's very devoted to him told me that he had done many miracles, so that's when I started believing in him.

INTERVIEWER: How did you start coming to this specific place?

B: One day I was walking on a street between 6th and Broadway and I found a card with the address of this Botanica here in L.A.

INTERVIEWER: What miracles has he done for you, if I may ask?

B: Miracles are so great, that now I brought him in a procession all the way from San Juan Capistrano because of all the wonderful things he has done for me. The first great thing he did for me was to help me pass the citizenship test, when I didn't know how to speak a bit of English. There was also another time when I crossed the border through Tijuana with two kids. They didn't do anything to me. They just arrested me and took one of the kids with them and I had prayed to him so much, that nothing really happened. I could have lost my green card.

INTERVIEWER: Why is it so important for you to have those flowers so nicely fixed in the altar?

B: I was fixing the flowers because today is a very important day for those of us who believe in him and we want to see him happy and smiling knowing that we care about every little detail of the celebration of his birthday.

INTERVIEWER: What does this celebration consist of?

B: We are anxiously waiting for this night's events. We are having a performance by a folk dance group and many surprises, presents, and a lot of fun.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel like you're in your own home when you're here?

B: Yeah. Actually, I feel more like I'm in heaven, with all the wonderful things that have happened to me in my whole life thanks to him.

INTERVIEWER: Do you tell your friends and relatives about San Simon, and do you tell your children have faith in him like somebody once told you about him?

B: No. None of my family members have faith in him, it's only me who believes in him.

INTERVIEWER: Why don't you want your kids to have faith in San Simon?

B: I don't want to teach them about San Simon now. I want them to discover by themselves later about the miracles that he can perform. I want them to chose whether they want to follow my steps or not. I just can't force them.

INTERVIEWER: So what exactly happened in the border?

B: One of the kids had papers, the other one didn't. I thought everything was gonna be ok, especially since they are brother and sister- my niece and my nephew, but it wasn't ok. They only allowed one of the kids to cross.

INTERVIEWER: Talk about the reasons why you dressed up this way.

B: I dressed up this way because San Simon has indigenous roots and I like dressing up this way to please him. This is one year's worth of sowing this blouse and the effort it took me to go to Guatemala to pick it up.

INTERVIEWER: Who sowed it for you?

B: A cousin from a village called Solola.

INTERVIEWER: I'm sweating on it.

B: No, you look good.

C: My name is [Name redacted]. I am Salvadoran, an American citizen. I give my authorization for my image to be on t.v.

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time you heard about San Simon?

C: More than a year ago. I've been visiting San Simon for more that one year.

INTERVIEWER: What was the problem you had that made you come?

C: I have an allergy on my head. And I started coming here and they gave me medicine and they made me pray for him so that he would cure me. And through his power and the will of God, I felt better now. And I also want to add that he has granted me everything that I've asked him for. And I have kept my faith towards him. I put all my problems in the hands of his spirit and I'm always able to solve them

INTERVIEWER: Did you say through the will of God?

C: Yeah. I always pray through the will of God and San Simon's spirit. Because first it's the will of God, and then He knows what favors he will grant San Simon. So based on that, I am able to be blessed with his miracles. That is all I have to say.